(b) At present Bleaching Earth is being manufactured in Small Scale Sector only. The exact quantity of Bleaching Earth produced by them is not readily available. However, according to the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, the production of known units during 1987-88 was of the order to 34,640 tonnes.

(c) and (d) Since the requirement of Bleaching Earth is being met through indigenous source only, question does not arise.

National Awards to drug companies

1597. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the drug companies which have received National Awards for R & D work announced in 1988;

(b) what is Government's policy to encourage and reward companies which receive national recognition in R & D;

(c) whether the awards given to drug companies were on the basis of recommendations of the Department of Science and Technology; and

(d) what has been the specific work done by the drug companies which received national award in 1988, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) M/s. Wockhardt Ltd. Bombay and M/s. CIPLA Limited, Bombay, are the two drug companies which have received the National Awards for R&D work in 1988. These awards were instituted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, as part of Government's policy to reward and encourage industrial research and technological development. The awards are given to drug companies based on the recommendations of the expert committees constituted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which scruitinised the applications for National Awards.

(d) National Award for R&D efforts in industry was presented to M/s. Wockhardt Ltd., Bombay in recognition of their efforts for successful commercialisation of technology for manufacturing Dextropropoxphene originally developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for the year 1988. National Award for R&D efforts in industry was presented to M/s. CIPLA Ltd., Bombay in recognition of their efforts for successful commercialisation of technology for manufacture of two important drugs namely (1) Gugulpid a lipid lowering agent and (2) Vinbalstine/Vincristine, Anti-cancer drugs developed by CDRI, Lucknow and NCL, Pune for the year 1988.

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

1598. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of COMUUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) what is the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu, District-wise as on 31st March, 1989; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more post offices in Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon, Thevar, Coimbatore and Kamarajar Districts, if so, by when they are likely to be opened?